

Zoological Society

9.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

April 29, 1865.



IN accordance with the provisions of the Royal Charter granted to the Society in the year 1829, the Council have now the pleasure of submitting to the approbation of the Fellows assembled in their thirty-sixth Anniversary Meeting the customary Report upon the progress of the Society during the past year.

This, in conformity with former precedents, they have divided into three heads, the first of which relates to the general state of the Society, the second to the operations carried on at the office in Hanover Square, and the last to the state of the establishment in the Regent's Park.

I. GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.

1. ORDINARY MEMBERS, FELLOWS, AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

The number of Fellows, Fellows Elect, and Annual Subscribers at the present time amounts to 1955. Of these there are—

Compounders, who have paid £20	181
Ditto ditto £30	406
Paying annual contributions of £2	217
Ditto ditto £3	984
Dormant	43
Admission-fees unpaid	51
Ditto remitted	14
Annual Subscribers, paying £3	59
	<hr/>
	1955

The number of Fellows elected since the last Anniversary has been 256; of Annual Subscribers 12; and eight

carried out in the Society's establishment—such as the removal of the old wooden fence opposite the Giraffe Yard, and the replacement of it by an iron fence, the erection of a new set of pheasant-sheds, and the replacing of the boiler in the engine-house by a new one of greater dimensions, and capable of generating a larger amount of steam. These minor improvements, which, together with the expenses attendant upon them, are all particularized in the list of items of extraordinary expenditure incurred during the past year, cost altogether the sum of £731 0s. 6d., and make up the total sum of £5278 17s. 1d., devoted to the permanent improvement of the Society's Garden Establishment during the year.

2. MENAGERIE.

The most important event connected with the Society's Menagerie that has occurred since the last Anniversary has been the successful result of Mr. Thompson's mission to India. The circumstances which induced the Council to undertake this expedition have already been detailed in the last Report, but it may be convenient to recall them to the recollection of the Meeting.

Several of the Society's Corresponding Members in India—amongst whom may be particularly mentioned Mr. A. Grote, the Babu Rajendra Mullick of Calcutta, and Mr. W. Dunn of Akyab—having announced that they had collections waiting for transmission to the Society, amongst which were a pair of young Rhinoceroses, and other valuable animals, the Council determined on sending out to Calcutta, to receive and bring back those proffered donations, Mr. James Thompson, the Society's Head Keeper, who had previously made the same journey with such signal success on the occasion of the introduction of the Himalayan Pheasants in 1858. They also gladly embraced the opportunity of sending out to the Babu Rajendra Mullick a selection of living animals likely to be acceptable to that gentleman, as some return for the many valuable donations that he has from time to time made to the Society's Menagerie. At the last Anniversary, the Council had the pleasure of announcing that Mr. Thompson, who had left England in the 'Hydaspes,' on the 28th of November, 1863, had reached Calcutta with the loss of only one individual of the collection under his charge,

and had safely delivered the others at their destination. Mr. Thompson left Calcutta on his return voyage in the 'Hydaspes' on the 5th of April, and arrived in the Thames on the 28th of July, bringing with him the following fine series of animals, which had been brought together for the Society at Calcutta by the exertions of their Corresponding Members, the Babu Rajendra Mullick of Calcutta, Mr. A. Grote of Alipore, Dr. John Squire, and Mr. Wm. Dunn of Akyab:—

- 2 Rhinoceroses (*Rhinoceros indicus*).
- 2 Black Cuckoos (*Eudynamys orientalis*).
- 2 Rose-coloured Pastors (*Pastor roseus*).
- 1 Rhinoceros Hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*).
- 2 Concave Hornbills (*Buceros cavatus*).
- 3 Green-necked Peafowl (*Pavo spicifer*).
- 3 Lineated Pheasants (*Euplocamus lineatus*).
- 2 Rufous-tailed Pheasants (*Euplocamus erythrophthalmus*).
- 1 Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron chinquis*).
- 2 Indian Tantali (*Tantalus leucocephalus*).
- 2 Indian Jabirus (*Mycteria australis*).
- 2 Saras Cranes (*Grus antigone*).
- 2 Land Tortoises (*Testudo indica*).

Very few losses were experienced by Mr. Thompson during his voyage, the only noticeable occurrence under this head having been the Polyplectrons, which appear to have been in a diseased state when shipped, and mostly died before the vessel reached Madras. The total cost of Mr. Thompson's expedition amounted to £808 18s. 6d., whilst the lowest estimate that can be put upon the value of the collection thus acquired amounts to £1516. Under these circumstances, the Council thought it only due to this deserving officer of the Society to award him a gratuity of £50 for his services, together with their special thanks for his conduct during the expedition.

It may be remarked that some of the additions thus made to the Society's collection, such as the Hornbills and the Lineated Pheasants (for the latter of which the Society is indebted to their Corresponding Member, Dr. J. Squire), were not only novelties to the collection, but such specimens as the Council could have hardly hoped to acquire in any other way.